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FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

TO: Examiner D.J. Isabella

COMPANY: USPTO

FACSIMILE NUMBER: 571-273-8300

FROM: Brian S. Tomko

TELEPHONE NO.: 732-524-2823

DATE: December 13, 2005

FACSIMILE NUMBER: 732-524-5575

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET: 20

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COMMENTS:

Docket No.: HRT0293
Application No.: 10/099,690

THE FOLLOWING HAS BEEN RECEIVED IN THE U.S. PATENT OFFICE ON THE DATES STAMPED HEREON:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Oath of Declaration | <input type="checkbox"/> Drawings _____ sheets |
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| | PTO-1449 & copies of IDS, dated 3/5/04, |
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DEC 13 2005

Docket No. HRT0293

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: John H. Stevens, et al.

Application No.: 10/099,690

Group No.: 3738

Filed: March 15, 2002

Examiner: D.J. Isabella

For: Method and Apparatus for Thoracoscopic Intracardiac Procedures

CERTIFICATION UNDER (37 C.F.R. § 1.8(A))

I hereby certify that, on the date shown below, this correspondence is being:

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☐ deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Date:

Facsimile

☒ transmitted by facsimile to the Patent and Trademark Office.Signature: /Brian S. Tomko/
Brian S. Tomko, Reg. No. 41,349Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231REQUEST FOR COPIES OF COMPLETED FORM PTO-1449

1. The Notice of Allowability mailed on September 20, 2005 has been received.
2. Applicants have not received copies of Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), mailed on or about 5 March 2004, 11 November 2003 and 25 November 2003 that indicate that the Examiner considered them. Applicants attach a copy of each of the IDS's referenced to above.
3. It is respectfully requested that a copy of the completed Form PTO-1449 be furnished to the undersigned.

/Brian S. Tomko/
Brian S. Tomko
Reg. No. 41,349Johnson & Johnson
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza
New Brunswick, NJ 08933-7003
Tel: (732) 524-1239
Date: December 13, 2005
Customer No. 000027777



57388

Docket No. HRT-293

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICERECEIVED
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DEC 13 2005

Applicants : Stevens et al.

Serial No. : 10/099,690

Art Unit: 3738

Filed : March 15, 2002

Examiner: D. Isabella

For : METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR THOROSCOPIC PROCEDURES

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the
United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed
to: Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

3/3/04
(Date of deposit)

Brian S. Tomko

(NAME of applicant, assignee, or Registered Representative)

03/09/2004 HLE333 00000025 100750 10999690

01 FC:1806 180.00 DA

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(signature)

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MAR 11 2004

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(Date of signature)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Washington, D.C. 20231

FIRST SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

This copy is supplemental to the Information Disclosure
Statement mailed on November 25, 2003.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and in accordance with 37 C.F.R.
§§1.97-1.98, information relating to the above-identified
application is hereby disclosed. Inclusion of information in this
statement is not to be construed as an admission that this
information is material as that term is defined in 37 C.F.R.
§1.56(b).

Applicant(s) reserve(s) the right to establish the
patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information
provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not
be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be
enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist.

☒ In accordance with §1.97(b), since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed either within three months of the filing date of the above-identified national application (other than a continued prosecution application under §1.53(d)), within three months of the date of entry into the national stage of the above identified application as set forth in §1.491, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits of the above-identified application, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114, no additional fee is required.

☐ In accordance with §1.129(a), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed in connection with ☐ the first or ☐ second After Final Submission, therefore:

- ☐ Statement in Accordance with §1.97(e) (attached);
or
- ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. 10-0750/ / the fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p).

☐ In accordance with §1.97(c), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the period set forth in §1.97(b) above but before the mailing date of either a Final Action under §1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution and that it is accompanied by one of:

- ☐ Statement in Accordance with §1.97(e) (attached);
or
- ☒ Please charge Deposit Account No. 10-0750/HRT293/BST the fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p).

☐ In accordance with §1.97(d), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the mailing date of either a Final Action under §1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under §1.311 but before the payment of the Issue Fee. Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement. Included are: Statement in Accordance with §1.97(e) as set forth below and the fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p).

☒ Copies of each of the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are enclosed herewith.

☐ Copies of references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are enclosed herewith EXCEPT THAT:

☐ In view of the voluminous nature of references [list as appropriate], and the likelihood that these references are available to the Examiner, copies are not enclosed herewith.

☐ If any of the foregoing publications are not available to the Examiner, Applicant will endeavor to supply copies at the Examiner's request.

☐ Copies of only foreign patent documents and non-patent literature are enclosed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(2). (The U.S. patents and each U.S. patent application publication listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are not enclosed because this U.S. patent application was filed after June 30, 2003 or this international application has entered the national stage under 35 USC §371 after June 30, 2003 (see USPTO waiver of requirement under 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(2)(i)).

☐ There are no listed references which are not in the English language.

☒ The relevance of those listed references which are not in the English language is as follows: Japanese Patents 58-146339, 50-103199, and 3-198829, correspond to US Patent Nos. 4,529,397, 3,890,969 and 4,972,827 respectively, as listed on the attached Form 1449.

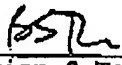
☐ Attached are copies of search report(s) from corresponding patent application(s), which are listed on the attached Submission Under MPEP 609 D.

Copies of the references listed on the search report(s) are included except for those previously cited in an IDS mailed

☐ Attached are the following non-published pending patent applications which may be deemed relevant, which are listed on the attached Submission Under MPEP 609 D.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 10-0750/HRT-293/BST. This form is submitted in triplicate.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian S. Tomko
Reg. No. 41,349
Attorney for Applicants

Johnson & Johnson
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza
New Brunswick, NJ 08933-7003
(732) 524-1239
DATED:

March 3 / 2004

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Application Number	10/099,890
Filing Date	March 15, 2002
First Named Inventor	Stevens
Group Art Unit	3739
Examiner Name	D. Isabella
Attorney Docket Number	HRT-293

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

1 Unique citation designation number. 2 See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U. S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS.SEND TO:** Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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DEC 13 2005

Docket No. HRT-0293

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Stevens et al.

Serial No. : 10/099,690

Art Unit: 3738

Filed : March 15, 2002

Examiner: D. Isabella

For : Method and Apparatus for Thoracoscopic Procedures

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the
United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed
to: Commissioner For Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 am

November 25, 2003

(Date of Deposit)

Brian S. Tomko

(Name of Applicant, Assignee, or Registered Representative)

(Signature)

March 15, 2002

(Date of Signature)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.97-1.98, information relating to the above-identified application is hereby disclosed. Inclusion of information in this statement is not to be construed as an admission that this information is material as that term is defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

Applicant(s) reserve(s) the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist.

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☐ In accordance with §1.129(a), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed in connection with ☐ the first or ☐ second After Final Submission, therefore:

- ☐ Statement in Accordance with §1.97(e) (attached); or
- ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. 10-0750/ / the fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p).

☐ In accordance with §1.97(c), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the period set forth in §1.97(b) above but before the mailing date of either a Final Action under §1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution and that it is accompanied by one of:

- ☐ Statement in Accordance with §1.97(e) (attached); or

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☒ Copies of each of the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are enclosed herewith.

☐ Copies of references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are enclosed herewith EXCEPT THAT:

- ☐ In view of the voluminous nature of references [list as appropriate], and the likelihood that these references are available to the Examiner, copies are not enclosed herewith.

- ☐ If any of the foregoing publications are not available to the Examiner, Applicant will endeavor to supply copies at the Examiner's request.

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☐ The relevance of those listed references which are not in the English language is as follows:

☐ Attached are copies of search report(s) from corresponding patent application(s), which are listed on the attached Submission Under MPEP 609 D.

☐ Attached are the following non-published pending patent applications which may be deemed relevant, which are listed on the attached Submission Under MPEP 609 D.

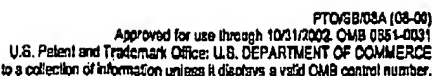
Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 10-0750/HT-0293/BST. This form is submitted in triplicate.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian S. Tomko
Reg. No. 41,349
Attorney for Applicants

Johnson & Johnson
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza
New Brunswick, NJ 08933-7003
(732) 524-1239
DATED: November 25, 2003



Sheet 1 of 1

Application Number	10/099,690
Filing Date	3/15/02
First Named Inventor	Stevens et al.
Group Art Unit	3738
Examiner Name	D. Isabella
Attorney Docket Number	HRT0293

[illegible]

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 809. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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Docket No. HRT0293

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Stevens et al.

Serial No. : 10/099,690

Art Unit: 3738

Filed : March 15, 2002

Examiner: D. Isabella

For : Method and Apparatus for Thoracoscopic
Intracardiac Procedures

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United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed
to: Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

November 11, 2003

(Date of Deposit)

Brian S. Tomko

(Name of applicant, assignee, or Registered Representative)

(Signature)

November 11, 2003

(Date of Signature)

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

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Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 10-0750/HRT0293/BST. This form is submitted in triplicate.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian S. Tomko
Reg. No. 41,349
Attorney for Applicants

Johnson & Johnson
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza
New Brunswick, NJ 08933-7003
(732) 524-1239
DATED: November 11, 2003

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Sheet 1 of 1

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Application Number	10/089,690
Filing Date	3/15/02
First Named Inventor	John H. Stevens
Group Art Unit	3738
Examiner Name	D. Isabella
Attorney Docket Number	HRT-0293

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
-----------------------	--------------------

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 608. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

1 Unique citation designation number. 2 See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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Substitute for Form 1443A-PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 2

Application Number	10/099,690
Filing Date	3/15/02
First Named Inventor	John H. Stevens
Group Art Unit	3738
Examiner Name	D. Isabella
Attorney Docket Number	HRT0293

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner's Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published	T ²
		Allot et al., "Mahaim tachycardias", European Society of Cardiology, 1998, No. 19, pp. E-25-E31.	
		Bredikis et al., "Laser Surgery of Heart Pathways", Kardiologiya, No 5/1985, 88-89	
		Bredikis et al., "Cryogenic and laser techniques in closed heart surgery of ectopic atrial tachycardia" (Abstract), J. Cardiovasc Surg., 29, 1988, p. 54	
		Chevallier et al., "Thoracoscopic Epicardial Radiofrequency Ablation for Vagal Atrial Fibrillation in Dogs" PACE, Vol 22, 6/1999, Part I, pp. 880-886	
		Elvan, et al., "Radiofrequency Catheter Ablation of the Atria Eliminates Pacing-Induced Sustained Atrial Fibrillation and Reduces Connexin 43 in Dogs", Circulation, Vol. 96, No. 5, 9/2/97 pp.1675-1685	
		Elvan et al., "Radiofrequency Catheter Ablation of the Atria Reduces Inducibility and Duration of Atrial Fibrillation in Dogs", Circulation, Vol. 91, No. 8, 4/15/95, pp. 2235-2244.	
		Ferguson et al., "Surgical Treatment of Arrhythmias" Heart Disease & Stroke, Jan/Feb, 1993, pp. 37-43.	
		Frank et al., "Surgical Treatment of Focal Atrial Tachycardia" (Abstract), Kardiologia, 778:118-123 (1987)	
		Frank et al., "Surgical Treatment of Wolf Parkinson-White Syndrome: Results from Surgeries on 120 Patients", (Abstract), Zeitschrift fur Herz, Thorax & Gefaesschirurgie, 1992, No. 6, pp. 257-263	
		Guiraudon et al., "Surgical Repair of Wolff-Parkinson-White Syndrome: A New Closed-Heart Technique", Annals of Thoracic Surgery, Vol. 37, No. 1, 1/1984, pp.67-71.	
		Guiraudon et al., "Supraventricular Tachycardias: The Role of Surgery", PACE, vol. 16, March, Part II 1993, pp. 658-670.	
		Guiraudon et al., "Closed Heart Surgery for Wolff-Parkinson-White Syndrome", IJC 5:387-91 (1984)	
		Guiraudon et al., "Surgical ablation of posterior septal accessory pathways in the Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome by a closed heart technique", J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg 92:408-413 (1986)	
		Guiraudon et al., "Surgery for Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome: further experience with an epicardial approach", Circulation 74:529-29 (1986)	
		Guiraudon et al., "Closed-Heart Technique for Wolff-Parkinson-White Syndrome: Further Experience and Potential Limitations", Ann of Thorac Surg 42:651-57 (1986)	
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